

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 10656 210105Z

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ACTION SCSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5335

UNCLAS MEXICO 10656

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, MX

SUBJ: PRISONER WELFARE: VISIT TO SANTA MARTA PRISON,
DECEMBER 18, 1974.

FOR: SCS

PASS TO: CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS

1. ON DECEMBER 18, 1974, A CONSULAR OFFICER VISITED THE
FEDERAL DISTRICT PRISON AT SANTA MARTA AND INTERVIEWED
ALL 19 AMERICANS IMPRISONED THERE. THE INCREASE FROM 17
TO 19 RESULTED FROM THE RECENT TRANSFER OF RICHARD W.
DEMOSS AND GARY F. HINTON FROM THE LECUMBERRI PREVENTIVA
PRISON.

2. IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT ALL OF THE PRISONERS' REQUESTS,
WHICH HAD BEEN PASSED TO THE PRISON DIRECTOR AT THE
PREVIOUS VISIT, HAD BEEN COMPLIED WITH. TWO OF THE THREE
PRISONERS WHO HAD REQUESTED EYE EXAMINATIONS WERE ALREADY
WEARING NEW GLASSES. ANOTHER PRISONER WHO HAD EXPRESSED
THE NEED FOR A SPECIAL DIET, THANKED THE OFFICER FOR HAVING
BEEN GRANTED ONE.

3. GRIEVANCES EXPRESSED DURING THIS VISIT PRIMARILY CONCERNED
INSUFFICIENT MATERIALS AND SPACE FOR THE LEATHER AND CANDLE-
MAKER'S WORKSHOP. THESE WERE PASSED TO THE PRISON DIRECTOR
WHO AGREED TO LOOK INTO THE MATTER. THE DIRECTOR'S ATTITUDE
WITH REGARD TO SUCH REQUESTS HAS BEEN MOST COOPERATIVE.

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4. INTEVIEWES WITH THE PRISONERS WERE FRIENDLY AND GOOD-

SPIRITED. DONATIONS OF CLOTHING AND SWEATERS WERE WELCOMED
BY THE PRISONERS.
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